

A Letter to a Friend, upon the Dissolving of the Late Parliament, and the Calling of a New One Together with a LIST of Those that were against Making the Prince and Princess of Orange, KING and QUEEN.

SIR,

AS I do fully acquiesce in the Wisdom and Authority of the King in his Dissolving of the *Late Parliament*, so I'm perfectly persuaded, That he did it upon Motives relating to his own Honour, and to the Safety and Happiness of his people, and not in Subserviency to any *Prerogative Design*, nor to please himself with an Exercise of *Regal Power*. And I will venture to say, That nothing could have induced him to abruptly, as well as unexpectedly, to have dissolved a *Parliament*, that first advanced him unto and then by so many free and vast Contributions, endeavoured to support him in the Throne; but the finding them unserviceable to the uniting of *Protestants*, the Vindicating of our *Laws and Liberties*, and the punishing of those who had subverted our Constitution; which as they are the only Justifiable Grounds both of his Coming hither, and of his Accepting the Royal Authority, to nothing less than the pursuing of those ends, can vindicate his Decent *into England*, from being an Unrighteous Invasion, and his Ascending the *British Throne*, from the Reproach of an *Ambitious Usurpation*. How could a *Prince* of his Integrity and Wisdom think, that the obtaining and wearing of a Crown, was Honourable and Just, while the Reasons upon which he received and possesseth it, were not only controuled and reproached, but exposed and ridiculed? Nor is it possible for his Majesty to believe, That the late King was so heinously guilty, as to forfeit all right of Sovereignty, while those who advised him unto, and were the Ministers of all his Misgovernment, whom the Law makes chiefly, if not onely accountable, were esteemed guiltless and innocent. He could not but foresee that the *Abdication of King James* is easily reversible, and that he himself holds his Crown very precariously, if there was nothing to justify the *Exalting* the One, and the *Debarring* the Other, but the hasty and arbitrary Vote of the Majority of the Two Houses. And he must needs look upon all that was alleged, concerning the *Late King's* violating the *Oath and Contract*, and his subverting the *Laws of the Constitution*, as Fiction and Dream, while there were none to be found, that counselled him unto, or assisted him in it.

And as this justifies the Wisdom of his Majesty in the Dissolving of the *Late Parliament*, so we may, from hence easily conclude, both upon what prospect and hope he hath been pleased to call a *New one*, and by what measures those to whom the Right of Electing Members doth belong, are to

guide themselves in the ensuing Choice. Nor do we onely want a Parliament that may Confirm, Establish, and Support his Majesty in the Throne, but which may proceed on those principles, as do render his Accession unto it, Necessary, as well as Honourable and Just. And as the Nation is once more furnished with an opportunity of choosing such a *Representative Body*, as may vindicate and assert its Ancient *Laws, Rights and Liberties*; so there is a fresh Advantage afforded us, of testifying our Loyalty to his present Majesty, and of promoting his *Greatness*, as well as of providing for our own future Safety. I need not tell you that the ends to be proposed in the Service of those who are to be Elected, are, That the *Taxers* may be settled upon firm and righteous Foundations; and, That all his Majesty's Subjects may live at Ease and Unity under his Government. 'Tis therefore, incumbent upon all wise and honest Men, that they Elect such to Represent them, as may both Allow and Confirm unto the King, all the Ancient and Legal Rights of the Crown; and yet at the same time recover and secure all those Privileges unto the People, which the invading and rejecting from them gave occasion unto, and can alone justify the late Revolution. Whoever seeks to enrich the King with the spoils of his Subjects, and to adorn them with what our late Monarch taught from them, can design no less, than that the same Fate should befall him, which overtook his *Predecessor*, which is the robbing him first of his *People's* Affections, and then of his own Authority. 2. 'Tis onely the Duty than it is, the Interest of all the world, have the Nation formidable to its Enemies, and the King successful in his Undertakings, that they depose and authorise those to act for them in *Parliament*, who without subverting or undermining the Church, may not only profess unto Dissenters, that Liberty vouchsafed them, for worshipping God, but who may restore them unto, and vest them in all the Common Rights and Privileges of *Englishmen*. Nor will he be able to persuade to great a compass of people, that they find their account in the late Revolution, unless they be admitted by Law to enjoy the same Advantages as the present King, which by Dissolving itself, and an Oath upon the Law, they were possessed of under the last. We are to esteem them the best of all others, to be returned to, (except in the ensuing Election, who are likeliest to maintain in our *Allies* a Confidence of us, and to encourage them both to continue the Confederacy, and to pursue the ends of it. And therefore as we

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